The Pulse

NEWS of the NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

Volume 5, No. 8 November 1950

New Building Under Way

Construction of a three and a half million dollar new central building was begun Friday, October 20, at the New England Deaconess Hospital, Deaconess Road, Boston. The groundbreaking ceremonies were opened at eleven o'clock in the morning with a prayer offered by the Reverend Emory Stevens Bucke. Mr. Ernest G. Howes, President of the Corporation, presided; and Mr. Stanley MacMullen, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr. Warren F. Cook, Executive Director of the hospital, together with many staff doctors, addressed the gathering.

To blend with existing hospital units, the New Central Building will be made of red brick, although the design will be quite modern. In addition, the structure will embody many of the latest features of hospital planning. Two entire floors will be devoted to operating suites and central supply, another to X-ray, all fully air-conditioned. The administrative offices, the main lobby, flower and gift shops and other public rooms will be on the first floor. On the ground floor there will be an ultra-modern central kitchen, capable of supplying food for the entire hospital. A large bright cafeteria for doctors, nurses, employees and visitors will overlook the Riverway facing west. This centralization will make possible substantial economies in the operation of the hospital and greater efficiency will result throughout.

When the new building is completed and alterations to the other buildings effected, the Deaconess Hospital will have a net gain of seventy-five beds, bringing its capacity up to 375. The Turner Construction Company of Boston has been awarded the contract, and Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott are the architects.

Nursing School Preview

The New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing conducted its second "Nursing School Preview" starting on October 29 and continuing through the entire week.

Twice a year, the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing admits students. The incoming class of January, 1951 was divided into two groups and invited to the School for a three-day session each. During the "Preview," prospective students follow a full schedule which includes a class of instruction, a complete tour of the Hospital, interviews with members of the Faculty and Guidance Counselors, physical examinations, and get-togethers with the upperclassmen.

The thirty-three girls now participating in this second "Preview" have been selected from a list of about 100 applicants and will receive a realistic, first-hand introduction to the life of a student nurse two months before they are scheduled to report to their first class.

The Preview was inaugurated last July at the Deaconess and the highly successful results obtained then have warranted its continuation as an entrance procedure for prospective students. "After attending this Preview," Miss Olive Nelson, Director of the School said, "it is hoped that the girls will return in January with enthusiasm and confidence in their ability to complete the three-year course."

Social Security

On October 25 the Executive Committee approved the adoption of Social Security for the employees of the hospital. It will be necessary, however, to have two-thirds of all employees sign up before our application will be accepted. The effective date is January 1, 1951. Payroll deductions amount to 1½ per cent of total salary, and the hospital also contributes 1½ per cent. Everyone is urged to sign up, as this is an excellent retirement plan. Full details will be given out later individually.

The Pulse

NOVEMBER, 1950
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of the
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PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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To All Deaconess Hospital Employees

All employees of the hospital may receive their Thanksgiving dinner as guests of the hospital this year. It will be served from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

So that we may know how many guests to expect, will you please notify the head of your department before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20th, if you wish to accept this invitation, and you will then be given a guest ticket.

Relatives and friends of employees, accompanying an employee, are also welcome to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. The charge for guests will be $1.50 per person.

With all good wishes.

WARREN F. COOK,
Executive Director.

Contest

For all employees except Purchasing and Pharmacy! The person to make the closest guess as to the total number of pencils ordered from Purchasing by all departments between January 1 and November 1, 1950 will receive a box of candy. Report your answer in person to the Personnel Office.

Department of the Month

The Chemical Laboratory long ago outgrew its original quarters in the Deaconess Basement, and now in addition occupies a laboratory on the first floor of Baker, as well as a room on the Deaconess roof. By no means does the Laboratory confine its services to chemical analyses as the name would imply.

Microscopes line the benches in Baker Laboratory where half a dozen technicians enumerate and identify the blood cells which reveal the story behind many a patient's illness. While on the Deaconess Roof tracing of heart beats (Electrocardiograms), so important in diagnosing various heart conditions, are made as well as Metabolism Tests. In the Deaconess Basement, among a maze of complicated pieces of apparatus and myriads of bottles, each one filled with a special accurately prepared chemical reagent, the various chemical analyses are carried out.

Nearly 500 tests in all are done each day. Some of these tests are long analytical procedures, requiring as many as ten or twelve separate steps and involving the use of as many separate pieces of glassware, such as flasks, bottles, pipettes, funnels, slides, and coverslips. The process of making ready these 5,000 pieces of glassware that are used each day requires special chemical cleaning methods, so that no traces, not even microscopic, of any substance may remain as a contamination to interfere with accurate results. Several hundred containers, too, must be prepared each day to be used on the floors for the collection of the various specimens, each type made up for a specific test.

In all almost 100 different kinds of tests on various body fluids are carried out daily to assist the doctor in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient's condition. These range from the simple measurement of hemoglobin in the blood, which is done with a sensitive photocell colorimeter that can measure depth of color more precisely than the human eye, to the complicated gas analysis of blood done on patients in diabetic coma with a Van Slyke apparatus. Truly the technician must possess a wide variety of technical skills and a broad knowledge to be able to differentiate the pathological finding from the normal. She must be alert to any deviations from the normal that may be a danger signal to the doctor and on her rests the responsibility for finding and reporting accurately these variations.

To qualify for this type of work a girl must have at least a year of specialized training beyond her college work. The Deaconess Hospital offers such a course, one that has been approved by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, to qualified students. Nine months of the training period are spent in the Chemical Laboratory learning the special techniques that are used in Biochemistry, Haematology, Urinalysis as well as other Clinical Procedures, with additional time spent in the other laboratories of the hospital. Of the present laboratory staff, many received their laboratory training here.

In addition to the technicians, students, and assistants, medical students also help with the work. While most of the examinations can be handled during a normal working day, tests are frequently required at other times. When a patient is critically ill it is important for the doctor to know immediately, often in the middle of the night, the laboratory findings so that urgent treatment may be started without delay. For such emergencies, the laboratory is covered throughout the 24-hour period, Sundays, and holidays too, by especially trained technicians who are ever ready to do such tests as may be needed.

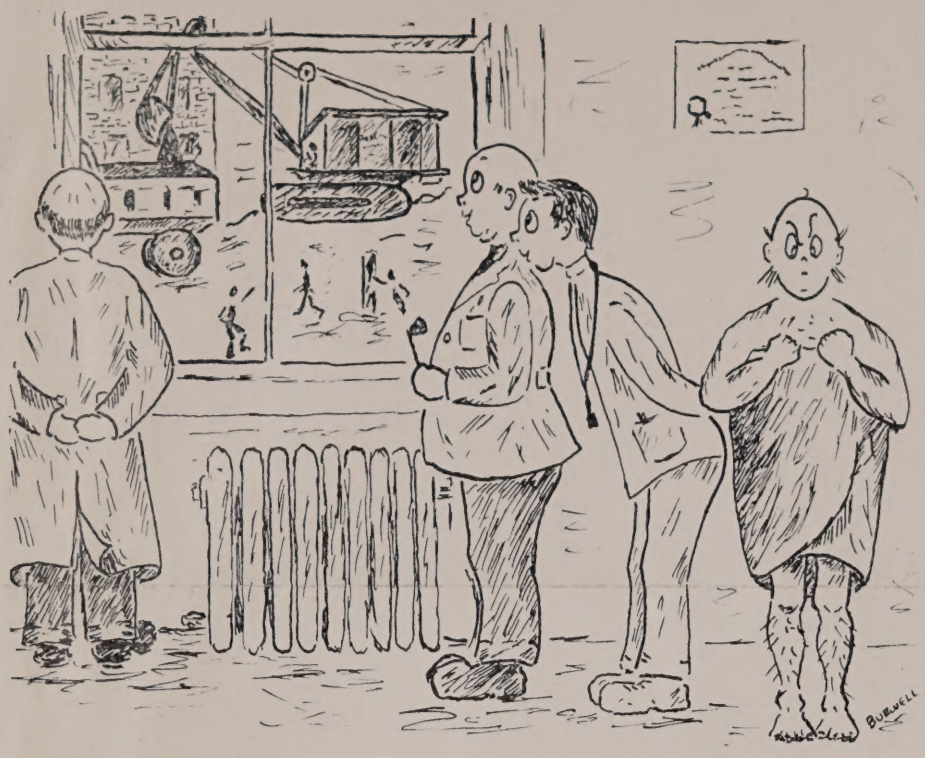
Remember This Date

December 1, 1950

The Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing will sponsor an informal dance on Friday evening, December 1 at the Hotel Puritan for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund. Hospital personnel, doctors, alumnae, and friends are invited to attend this dance and tickets may be purchased from Miss Marjorie Pond, Deaconess II Supervisor, Ext. 356. Why not make up a party for the evening! The cause is a worthy one. Fun — guaranteed!

Christmas Party

Save the afternoon of Friday, December twenty-second, for the big all-hospital party.



Parlez-vous francais?

If you have ever traveled in a foreign country and had the misfortune of being separated from your interpreter for any length of time, you will readily appreciate the feeling of helplessness so many visitors to this country experience on arrival. There is nothing quite like it, especially if you're sick.

Each year we have many foreign patients. Frequently they are unable to speak English and without friends or relatives. Amongst our employees there are some we know who can speak some other language, but we do not know all of those who can — nor exactly what languages. Why not call Personnel and offer your services as interpreter?

For Sidewalk Superintendents Only!!

Many questions have been raised about the construction program. A column will be devoted each month to any questions sent in by employees or interested parties. Please drop questions in the Suggestion Box, located in the hallway of the cafeteria.

1. Why do they put steel for the foundation (driving of piles) before they dig?

The steel which was driven is not for the foundation, but for a support for the temporary tunnel and for the construction of a retaining wall for the Pilgrim Road side of the excavation. These piles will eventually be removed.

2. Why don't they build on the vacant lot between Deaconess Road and Brookline Avenue?

The vacant lot between Deaconess Road and Brookline Avenue, known as Longwood Park, is a city park and can never be used for any other purpose.

3. Just how deep are they going to dig? It looks too deep already.

The excavation will be almost twice as deep as it now is, since there is to be both a basement for the kitchens and cafeteria and a sub-basement for the utilities.

4. Why did they tear down Baker front doorway?

The new building is to extend from Baker to Deaconess building and will cross Deaconess Road. The main entrance will be opposite Harris Hall with a corridor from the new lobby directly to the present Baker lobby.

5. What happens to Deaconess Road?

Deaconess Road will no longer exist between Pilgrim Road and Autumn Street.

6. What are the houses they are building on the lot between Deaconess Road and Brookline Avenue?

The houses being built on Longwood Park are for the Turner Construction Company's temporary offices.

7. What is that long building they are constructing in the hole they have already dug?

Since the present tunnel has to be moved, a temporary tunnel is being constructed.

8. Is it true that there will be 75 beds in the new building?

The new building will have one private room floor of 24 beds; however, approximately 50 additional beds will be gained in the spaces now occupied by Deaconess Operating Room, Deaconess X-ray, Palmer Operating Room, and Deaconess Administration floor.

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

Weddings

Miss Florence R. Brown, Head of the Department of Surgery, to Master Sgt. John A. Carlin on October 7th at Kingston, Rhode Island. Mrs. Carlin plans to leave the hospital on December 31st to be with her husband at Fort George G. Mead, Maryland.

Miss Florence Grover, Department of Surgery, to Mr. Van K. Perry at the Union Church in Hopedale, Massachusetts, on September 4th.

Miss Dorothy Ellen Holmquist, Department of Surgery, to Mr. Norman P. Pidgeon at the United Church in Walpole on August 26th.

Births

A son, William C., III, to Dr. and Mrs. William C. Baird on August 19th. Mrs. Baird was formerly from the Department of Surgery.

A daughter, Hilde Jean, to Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Beskin on August 22nd. Mrs. Beskin was also a Surgical Nurse.

A son, Peter Allen, to Dr. and Mrs. Oliver E. Laxdal on October 17th, in New York City. Mrs. Laxdal was another member of the Department of Surgery, and they are living at 245 East 37th Street, New York, New York.

A daughter, Anita, to Dr. and Mrs. Yuan-Chin Loh (Anna Loh, formerly of the Pathological Laboratory) on October 18th.

A son, Theodore Robert, Jr., to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Parkins on October 9th. Mrs. Parkins was formerly in the Personnel Office and one of the editors of THE PULSE.

Nursing

Engagements

Miss Mildred Boates, '51 Jr., to Mr. Russell D. Annis of Waltham.

Miss Barbara Ruth Broadbent, Assistant Nursing Arts Instructor, to Mr. Edward Arthur Corey of East Braintree. Mr. Corey is an Army Air Corps Veteran and is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. An April wedding is planned.

Miss Barbara Shirley Davison, '49 Sr., to Mr. Robert J. Renfrow of Port Washington, Long Island, New York. Mr. Renfrow is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is now a graduate student at MIT.

Miss Shirley Ruth Dott, '51 Sr., to Mr. Robert D. Dunton of Brookline. Mr. Dunton received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Ohio in 1948 and his Master's degree from the University of Massachusetts.

Miss Helen Munro Nease, '52 Jr., to Mr. Paul Basham, who is a student in the Department of Theology at Eastern Nazarene College, Wollaston.

Miss Maxine Beatrice Orton, '50 Jr., to Mr. James Nikula. The wedding will take place in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Barnstable, Massachusetts on November 18th. Mr. Nikula attended Springfield College and is a mail carrier at the Harwichport Post Office.

Miss Virginia Erdeanne Seames, '47 Jr., to Mr. Max Michelson. Mr. Michelson is employed at RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., New York, and Miss Seames has been a staff nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York.

Miss Gail Wolcott Wilcox, '52 Sr., to Mr. Stanley Anderson of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Anderson is attending the College of Optometry in Boston.

Weddings

Miss Jean Copeland Hunter to Mr. Walton J. Morse at the South Congregational Church, Brockton, Massachusetts, in November 4th. Mr. Morse is a graduate of the Boston School of Commerce and is employed in Boston.

Miss Edna Jean MacNeill, '50 Sr., to Mr. Thomas Edward Olliff at the Unitarian Church, Eastondale, Massachusetts, on October 8th. They reside in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Miss Martha Jean Perkins, '48 Sr., to Mr. Bert M. Nightengale at the home of the bride in Danville, Vermont, on August 13th. The couple will make their home at Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York.

Miss Virginia M. Sewall to Lieutenant W. Edson McKee at King's Chapel, Boston, on October 14th. Mrs. McKee ('43 Jr.) was formerly Head Nurse of the Foot Room.

Miss Barbara Ruth Shallies, '49 Jr., to Mr. Alfred G. Colby at the Uxbridge Congregational Church on October 28th. Mr. Colby is a student at the Columbia University Graduate School.

Births

A son, Albert James, Jr., to Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Wegmann (Nancy Poland, '48 Jr.) on September 28th. Their home is at 6A Virginia Terrace, Second Street, Baden, Pennsylvania.

A son, Geoffrey Baxter, to Mr. and Mrs. Laurence A. Blood (Patricia Worcester, '47 Jr.) on September 14th. The Bloods live in Marblehead.

A daughter, Margaret Hedwig, to Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand S. Veith (Cornelia Margaret Harrigan, '47 Sr.) on October 9th. They live at 160 Gardenhurst Avenue, Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

Record Room

Miss Jeanette E. King has accepted a position as secretary in the office of Dr. Dwight L. Siscoe.

Pathology

Miss Natalie Fossati sailed on October 21st for Bermuda with three friends and spent the following week there. They returned by air.

Dr. Bernard F. Mann, Jr., has taken a position at the Medical School of the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

Surgery

On Wednesday evening, November 1st, a linen shower was given at 9 Autumn Street for Mrs. John A. Carlin (Florence Brown) and gifts were presented to Miss Norma E. Beattie, Supervisor of Deaconess Operating Room, who is returning to her home in Canada this month. Mrs. Charlotte I. Kelleher has been appointed to replace Miss Beattie as First Assistant to Mrs. Carlin.

Mrs. Madelyn L. Celander (Madelyn Lawrence, '48 Sr.), Surgical Nurse, is joining Dr. Clifford C. Franseen's staff on November 30th.

Miss Jane M. Dryden, '50 Sr., has also resigned to join Dr. Leland S. McKittrick's staff late in November.

Ink In Your Blood?

The editorial staff and reporters wonder if any of you would like to help publish THE PULSE each month. We already have a very competent staff, but since THE PULSE has been enlarged, there could be more reporters and copy writers. Perhaps you have worked on a paper before and would like to work on one again, or perhaps you have always wanted to try your hand at it and never had a chance, so please consider this your invitation to join our staff. Just speak to your department reporter and you will be notified of the next PULSE meeting.